



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket No. DOT-MARAD-2023-0101]

Request for Comments on the Renewal of a Previously Approved Information Collection:

Application and Reporting Elements for Participation in the Tanker Security Program

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Maritime Administration (MARAD) invites public comments on our intention to request the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval to renew an information collection. The proposed collection OMB 2133- 0554 (Application and Reporting Elements for Participation in the Tanker Security Program) will be used to evaluate the eligibility of the applicant for participation in the Tanker Security Program (TSP). A minor change request to include a privacy act statement for the collection of personally identifiable information will be added to the form for this collection. We are required to publish this notice in the Federal Register by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. A 60-day Federal Register Notice soliciting comments on this information collection was published on March 20, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collections should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review - Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Hatcher, Office of Sealift Support, Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC, telephone: 202-366-0688, email: David.Hatcher1@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Application and Reporting Elements for Participation in the Tanker Security Program

OMB Control Number: 2133-0554

Type of Request: Renewal of a previously approved information collection

Abstract: The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21 NDAA) authorized the Secretary of Transportation to establish the Tanker Security Program (TSP) comprised of a fleet of active, commercially viable, militarily useful, privately owned product tank vessels of the United States. The fleet will meet national defense and other security requirements and maintain a United States presence in international commercial shipping. The National Defense Authorization for Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22 NDAA) made minor adjustments related to the participation of long-term charters in the TSP. OMB 2133-0554 (Application and Reporting Elements for Participation in the Tanker Security Program) provides for enrollment of eligible tank vessels in the program for FY 2022 through FY 2035.

This information collection supports the Department of Transportation's strategic goal for National Security. A fuel tanker study required by the fiscal year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (FY20 NDAA) examined the sufficiency of the U.S.-flagged tanker fleet to meet National Defense Strategy (NDS) requirements. The report's summary found there to be a substantial risk to the nation's defense associated with a heavy reliance on foreign-flagged tankers, particularly within a contested environment. The location, timing, and specific missions associated with some tanker requirements dictate the need for U.S.-flagged assets, for which there currently are insufficient numbers available. The report's gap analysis found a clear and critical need for a tanker security program to increase U.S.-flagged tanker capacity, to reduce the risk of reliance on foreign-flagged tankers for the most important fuel missions, and to ensure the Department of Defense (DoD) has sufficient tanker capabilities to meet NDS objectives. In response to the FY20 NDAA Fuel Tanker Study, Congress directed in the FY21 NDAA, with minor adjustments in the FY22 NDAA, that the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, establish a fleet of active, commercially viable, militarily useful, privately owned product tanker vessels to meet national defense and other security requirements

and maintain a United States presence in international commercial shipping. The Maritime Administration worked with the DoD's United States Transportation Command to identify and shape TSP requirements and timelines.

Respondents: Vessel Owners

Affected Public: Business Assistance, Water Transportation Operations, Merchant Marine

Estimated Number of Respondents: 10

Estimated Number of Responses: 160

Estimated Hours per Response: 1.75

Annual Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 280

Frequency of Response: Annual

(AUTHORITY: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. chapter 35, as amended; and 49 CFR 1.49.)

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr.,

Secretary, Maritime Administration.

[FR Doc. 2023-10978 Filed: 5/22/2023 8:45 am; Publication Date: 5/23/2023]